

Remarks/Arguments

Pending in the application as amended in response to the Office Action identified as Paper No. 6 and dated 05 September 2002 are claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-12. Indication of changes which have been made to the specification and claims are shown on the attachment entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".
✓ Claims 2-3, 5 and 7 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

In paragraph 1, the Examiner has quoted 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. In paragraph 2, the Examiner has applied the aforementioned paragraph and rejected claims 5, 8 and 11 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 8 for the reasons as stated in the Office Action. Applicant has made what is believed to be appropriate correction to the above bases of rejection whereby such correction can be seen in the amended claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is kindly requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

In paragraph 3, the Examiner has quoted 35 USC § 102(b). In paragraph 4, the Examiner has applied the above paragraph in stating that claims 1-12 are anticipated by Busboom et al.

Busboom et al. merely provides a semi-circular or semi-circumferential baffle or series thereof to accomplish a certain function or functions as described therein. In contrast, Applicant's invention in amended claim 1 now provides for ". . . a baffle for causing the stream from one of the chambers to flow upwardly above the stream from an adjacent chamber." Further, Applicant's invention (as amended) provides for a baffle having two portions whereby ". . . at least one of the portions [is] inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp . . .", as noted in claims 6 and 12, to provide the *associated* advantages which have been described in the specification. A discussion providing support for the above language and detailing the above advantages can be found at page five (5), paragraph 23 of the specification. It is believed that Busboom et al. does not provide a disclosure or teaching of such structure; therefore, it is kindly requested that the rejection(s) be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that the claims, as they are now submitted, patentably distinguish over the references made of record and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

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Respectfully,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on 12 December 2002
Date

Jaime F. Newkirk 12 December 2002
Deere & Company
Signature Date

"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"

In the claims:

Amendment(s) to claims 1, 4, 6, 8 and 12 is/are shown below. Claims 2-3, 5 and 7 have been cancelled. ✓

We claim:

1. (amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) a plurality of adjacent cutting chambers, each of the chambers having a front wall and a top surface in an interior thereof;

b) a cutting blade housed within each of the chambers, each of the blades being rotatable within its chamber and defining a cutting plane therein for the cutting of vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades causing a respective stream of air and vegetation to flow when it rotates and further causing its stream to be directed against and laterally along the front wall of its respective chamber[, one blade further directing its respective stream along the front wall of an adjacent chamber]; and

c) a baffle [joined to the front wall of the chamber of the one blade and the adjacent chamber to form a pathway bounded by the baffle and top surface of the chambers] for [directing] causing the stream from [the] one of the chambers to flow upwardly above the stream from an adjacent chamber [along an upper portion of the front wall of the adjacent chamber and the baffle].

4. (amended) The implement as recited in claim [3] 1 wherein:

the baffle is joined to at least a first and a second of the plurality of chambers and extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of [the] those chambers [of the one blade and the adjacent chamber].

6. (amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) first and second laterally spaced and adjacent cutting chambers, both chambers having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the interior surfaces of both chambers having a front wall;

b) a discharge opening adjacent the first chamber for allowing material to exit the first chamber;

c) a cutting blade housed within each chamber for cutting vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades being rotatable so as to define a generally horizontal cutting plane, each of the rotating blades generating a stream of air to convey the cut vegetation outwardly from its edge when it rotates with the stream being directed against and along the front wall; and

d) [a baffle joined to the front wall of the first chamber adjacent the discharge opening for directing the stream generated by rotation within the second chamber along an upper portion of the front wall of the first chamber and to the discharge opening] a baffle joined to the front walls of the first and second chambers and including first and second portions with each of the portions being generally above the cutting plane of the blades therein, at least one of the portions being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of the second chamber flows after it leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade.

8. (amended) The implement as recited in claim [7] 6 wherein:

the baffle reduces the stream or flow of cut vegetation below its first and second portions to permit the vegetation bent over by the front walls of the first and second chambers to straighten so as to extend into the cutting plane of the blade of at least the second chamber.

9. The implement as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the baffle constricts the area of flow available for the streams directed therealong and routes the stream from the second chamber above the baffle and the stream of the first chamber below the baffle.

10. The implement as recited in claim 9 wherein:

the baffle extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers.

11. The implement as recited in claim 8 wherein:

the baffle extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers.

12. (amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) a plurality of adjacent cutting chambers, the chambers being defined in part by a continuous front wall on an interior thereof and each having a top surface therein;

b) a cutting blade housed within each of the chambers, each of the blades being rotatable within its chamber and defining a cutting plane therein for the cutting of vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades causing a respective stream of air and vegetation to flow when it rotates and further causing its stream to be directed against and laterally along the front wall of its respective chamber, one of the blades further directing its respective stream along the front wall of an adjacent chamber; and

c) [a baffle joined to the front wall of the chamber of the one blade and the adjacent chamber to form a pathway bounded by the baffle and top surface of the chambers for directing the stream from the one chamber to flow upwardly along an upper portion of the front wall of the adjacent chamber and the baffle] a baffle which is joined to the front walls of the adjacent chambers and which includes first and second portions, each portion being generally above the cutting plane of the blades in the adjacent chambers, at least one of the portions being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of one of the chambers flows after it leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade.